Ready, Set, KNOW...



Your Road, Your Journey

Learning to Drive with a Disability

Learning to drive is an important milestone, but for people with disabilities, the road to driving may look different. With the right support, accommodations and instruction, people with a wide range of abilities can become safe, confident drivers.

The Road to Independence

Driving isn't only about getting around; for many people with disabilities, it can be a symbol of freedom, autonomy, and inclusion: true empowerment! Access to the road can build confidence and independence, but getting there may require additional support and instruction based on each person's individual needs.

Buckle Up! Here's Where to Start

All drivers in Washington state must meet the same licensing and safety requirements, regardless of disability or need for accommodations. This includes passing the required knowledge and driving skills tests. Accommodations are availlable, visit: dol.wa.gov/about/access-and-inclusion/accessing-our-services

Getting Started

- Include driving goals in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and/or person-centered plan (PCP), and follow up with a DDA case manager, when applicable.
- Seek the advice of a certified individual driving instructor or occupational therapist who has training in working with individuals with disabilities.
- Apply for a learner's permit on the Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL) website or by visiting your local DOL office. www.dol.wa.gov/driver-licenses-and-permits/
- Enroll in a driver's education course with a school that has experience working with individuals of all abilities.

Getting in Gear: Things to Consider Before Driver's Education

Whether you're learning to drive or supporting someone who is, here are a few questions to consider before getting started. If you're unsure about any of the answers, talk with a driving instructor or other professional about what support may be helpful.

- Does the person learning to drive consistently demonstrate good judgment and maturity at home, at school, at work or in the community?
- Are they open to feedback, instruction and learning new skills?
- Are they willing to practice driving with an experienced adult before driving independently? Is there a trusted adult willing and able to provide this support?
- Are there any medical, physical or behavioral conditions that could affect their ability to drive safely? If so, what additional supports or evaluations may be needed?

Your Next Stop: Helpful Resources

- Find a driver's education course: dol.wa.gov/driver-licenses-and-permits/driver-training-and-testing/driver-training-schools-and-testing-locations
- Learn about disability designations on driver's licenses: dol.wa.gov/driver-licenses-and-permits/update-driver-license-information/change-your-disability-or-medical-designation-driver-license-and-id-card
- Explore the Parent's Supervised Driving Program: www.edrivermanuals.com/washington/
- Read the Washington Driver Guide, available in multiple languages: www.dol.wa.gov/driver-licenses-and-permits/driver-training-and-testing/driver-guides
- Learn about the Blue Envelope program: dol.wa.gov/driver-licenses-and-permits/blue-envelope-program
- Create a safe driving agreement: www.dol.wa.gov/forms/view/661401a

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11/26